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Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

SOUTH VIETNAM: Situation improves at An Loc but a major enemy drive may be under way in the central highlands. (Page 1)

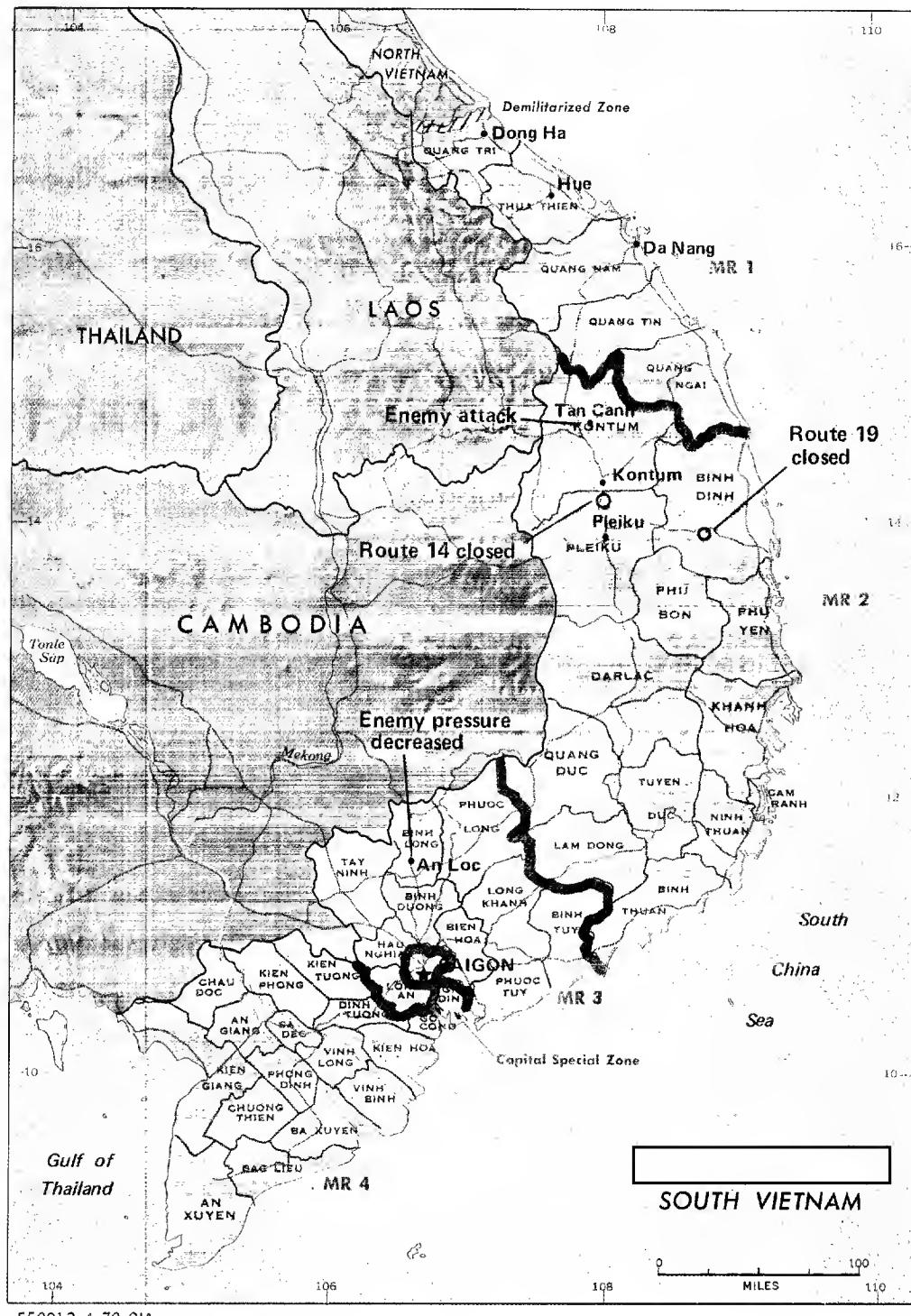


25X6

EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY: Status report on general traffic treaty. (Page 3)

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SOUTH VIETNAM: There has been some improvement in the situation at An Loc, but the Communists may have begun a major drive in the central highlands.

A series of heavy artillery and mortar attacks against the forward command post of the South Vietnamese 22nd Division at Tan Canh in Kontum Province was followed up with a tank-led enemy assault yesterday, which apparently has overrun the post. Poor weather and loss of communications gear in the attack have severely hampered air support operations. Enemy troops also interdicted Route 14--the main supply line for Kontum Province. The primary artery from the coast to the highlands, Route 19, remains closed.

In northwestern Military Region (MR) 3, enemy pressure against An Loc has decreased somewhat, with the result that the government was able to airlift supplies in and bring out some of the wounded yesterday. Government troops reportedly are making some headway recapturing portions of the northern sector of the town.

In the northern provinces of MR-1, the Communists shelled several government artillery support bases in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces yesterday, and made some follow-up ground probes. Late reports indicate that the enemy has made another of its increasingly frequent armor-led ground attacks in the Dong Ha area. Most other Communist activity in MR-1 consisted of local force attacks against South Vietnamese security forces in the coastal lowlands in the three southern provinces of the region.

25X1

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Central Intelligence Bulletin

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EAST GERMANY - WEST GERMANY: Negotiators Bahr and Kohl virtually completed drafting a general traffic treaty during their 19-20 April sessions, but do not expect to sign it until mid-May at the earliest.

Bahr told Allied representatives in Bonn that the inclusion of Berlin was the only major outstanding issue. He stated that the two remained wide apart on this subject and agreed that several more sessions would be needed to resolve it. Their conversations indicated, however, that neither side was prepared to let the Berlin issue block a treaty.

The sense of urgency that has attended these negotiations, which have been an avenue for East German concessions prior to Bonn's ratification of the Eastern treaties, has dissipated. Pankow's public offer to discuss international agreements dealing with relations between the two Germanies and to improve inter-German travel have satisfied Bonn's major goals in the negotiations. Bahr believes that with these concessions in hand, he can wait until after ratification to tackle the Berlin issue.

The initiatives that Kohl has taken in recent sessions with Bahr regarding a traffic treaty indicate that Pankow is intent on eventual settlement of its relations with Bonn. Kohl's repeated references to East German consultations with the Soviets, in addition to East German party leader Honecker's accommodating statements on West German relations, also suggest that East German interests are not as great an obstacle to European detente as they once were.

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